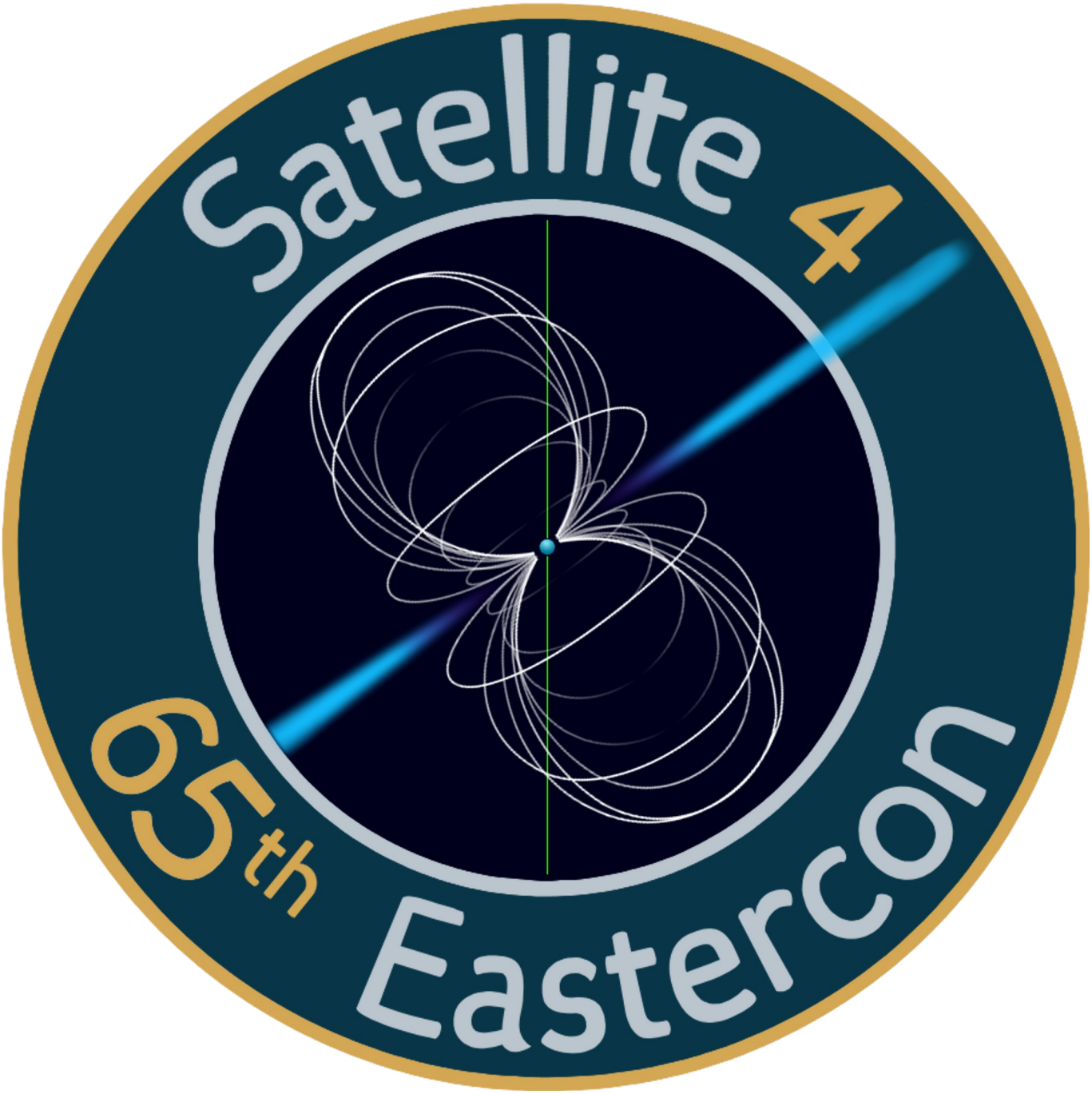

Modulation

The second Progress Report for the
65th British National Science Fiction Convention
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow
18th – 21st April 2014

About Us

Satellite 4 is the 65th Eastercon, to be held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow, from the 18th – 21st April 2014.

The Guests of Honour

John Meaney	Author
Juliet E McKenna	Author
Jim Burns	Artist
Alice and Steve Lawson	Fans
Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell	Scientist

The Special Guest

Sir Terry Pratchett	Author (limited appearance, subject to health)

The Oort Crowd (Committee)

Satellite 4 is being organised by some of the people who ran previous Satellite conventions, augmented by well-established conrunners:

Chair	Michael Davidson, Bringer of Peace
Vice-chair	Fran Dowd (The Sofa), Bringer of Wisdom
Programme/Guest Liaison	Christine Davidson, Bringer of Jollity
Publicity/Publications	Mad Elf, the Winged Messenger
Hotel Liaison	Mark Meenan, Bringer of Dreams
Treasurer/Membership	Carolyn Sleith (Dyllanne), Bringer of Wealth

The Contact Details

You can contact us by email at: **enquiries@satellite4.org.uk**
or by writing to:

Satellite 4,
c/o Flat 2/1,
691 Shields Road,
Pollokshields,
Glasgow
G41 4QL

For up-to-date news, see our website: **www.satellite4.org.uk**
or follow us on Facebook: **Satellite Conventions**
and Twitter: **@SatelliteCons**

From the Sofa

I know I should want to Save My High Street. Hate to tell you this, guys, but the High Street I would use is long gone. Now we have a Co-op, a rancid drug-dealer pub, a Post Office, two takeaways, five bookies. Three cake and coffee shops, four nail and tanning salons, three sandwich shops, a surgery and a LIDL.

I wonder how much I've contributed to this. Bought a washing machine so no launderette. Worked and commuted so more takeaways and less "ingredients" shops, bye bye butchers and fishmongers. Wine at home rather than a swift half before closing meant no neighbourhood pub.

Bringing back that old high street needs a sea change in how we live. House-keepers who only shop in the daytime. People who had time, knowledge and equipment to cook. A world where you weren't trying to gamble your way out of debt or eat yourself happy.

The science fiction and fantasy that interests me most is where someone develops the unexpected results of even small changes. And I love conventions which continue that discussion, and extrapolate it further. A great convention shows some of those changes in action. Or even identifies them. Why *did* people start knitting again? What have we learned about how people will use Twitter?

With EightSquared and Satellite 4 we've got two new groups of people, making deliberate and inadvertent changes to Eastercon. When I retire from con-running next year, I'm really looking forward to watching what happens next.

Fran

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Cover art by Mad Elf. Incidental art by Neil McChrystal. Material by Michael Davidson, Christine Davidson, Mad Elf, Carolyn Sleith, Mark Meenan, Fran Dowd. All data accurate as of 10/03/2013

Satellite 4 /sætəlɑjt fɔr/ (disambiguation)

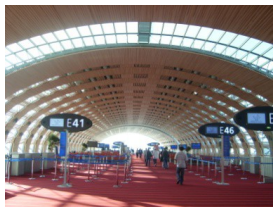
Satellite 4 is the 65th National British Science Fiction Convention.

Satellite 4 may also refer to:

- Satellite 4 departure lounge at Charles de Gaulle Airport.

  Opened June 28 2012 (so clearly took their name from our convention, launched April 2012)

  It cost 580 M € (just slightly less than an average fan's bar bill).

  http://corporate.airfrance.com/fileadmin/dossiers/documents/press_kits/press_kit_Committed_to_being_travellers_preferred_hub.pdf

- Satellite 4, the US Navy's latest tactical satellite.

  Tested June 2012 (again, suspiciously after our launch, we think – and they even copied our mission patch!

  http://navaltoday.com/2012/08/29/usa-tacsat-4-completes-testing-within-trident-warrior-experiment-2012/

- The Satellite 4, a soul band boiled down to its essence.

  The line up is Jeff Conlin (keyboards), Johnny Horn (bass), Eric Daw (guitar) and David Hudson (drums).

  Their latest album, Street Food, was released in February 2012 (clearly they got wind of our launch and wanted to squeeze an album out!)

  http://thesatellite4.bandcamp.com/

This disambiguation page lists concepts associated with the same title.

- At least we aren't a make of Chinese lipstick!

  Though with a tagline like "one giant leap for makeup", it's obvious they've been looking at our predecessor con!

  http://www.satellite3.com/

NOVACON 43

Park Inn Hotel, Nottingham

8th to 10th November 2013

Guest of Honour

Hugo and Nebula award winning author of *Among Others*.

Jo Walton

Join us for:

SF Authors
Science Talks
Dealers Room
Art Show
Book Launches
The Nova Awards

www.novacon.org.uk

Introducing our Scientist Guest of Honour – Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell

Dame Jocelyn is a world-renowned British scientist and Visiting Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Oxford. She discovered radio pulsars whilst a postgraduate student at Cambridge in the 1960's, a finding for which her PhD advisor, Antony Hewish, later shared the Nobel Prize in Physics. She holds numerous awards and honorary degrees, is a Fellow of the Royal Society, and has served as president of the Institute of Physics. She was one of the scientists featured in the BBC4 Beautiful Minds series.

Originally from Belfast, Dame Jocelyn has strong Scottish connections – her BSc is from the University of Glasgow and she worked at the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh for several years. She is a champion for women in science, an innovative science communicator (for example using poetry to engage listeners with astronomy) and an active Quaker.

Stamp Out Albatrosses!

OK – now that we have your attention we can admit that this should actually read 'Stamps *for* Albatrosses', our pre-con charity fundraiser. Many of you will remember the albatross as a badge motif for the well-loved Albacon conventions that took place in the 1980's. The RSPB are currently collecting stamps to help in their albatross preservation work. Satellite 4 has decided to pay tribute to these earlier Glasgow conventions and help protect these magnificent birds by saving all the stamps from con correspondence for this worthy cause.

We'd like you to help us collect stamps. Better still, encourage your friends, families and workmates to do the same (check our website for a poster you can print out). Please cut them out with no more than a few mm border, save them up in a safe place, and bring them to the convention. We hope to be able to fill a big sack, which we'll hand in to a local reserve.

For more details see:

http://www.rspb.org.uk/supporting/campaigns/albatross/howyoucanhelp/stamps.aspx

Hotel Update

The Convention will take place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Congress Road, Glasgow G3 8QT. The hotel is situated about two miles from Glasgow City Centre and beside the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre. The hotel is familiar to SF fans, having hosted the 2006 Eastercon, Concussion, and was the principal hotel for both the 1995 Worldcon, Intersection, and the 2005 Worldcon, Interaction. In addition it was, of course, the hotel for Satellite 2 in 2009. For further information see http://www.crowneplazaglasgow.co.uk

Overflow accommodation is available at the Campanile and the Hilton Garden Inn – both across the car park from the Crowne Plaza – and the Marriott, which is just over a mile from the Crowne Plaza.

Booking

We are pleased to announce there will be an online bedroom booking service managed by Glasgow City Marketing Bureau (http://www.seeglasgow.com/).

We intend to open room booking on 1st May 2013. An email will be sent to your registered email address with details, including a booking code.

After room booking opens you will also be able to obtain the code by following the My Membership link on our website. The email sent out will include the booking code along with the usual information.

If either of these options are an issue please contact us and we will send you a copy of the booking code/procedures by post (to arrive 1st May, Post Office willing!).

Rates

Hotel	Double	Single	Family rooms
Crowne Plaza	£105	£80	£105* (limited numbers)
Marriot	£100	£80	£100 (limited numbers)
Hilton Garden Inn	£95	£85	n/a
Campanile	£75	£65	£75**

All rates are per room per night, bed and breakfast. Children up to 15 stay free with their parents.

* Children over 12 pay for breakfast.

** Children pay half price for breakfast.

Note: All our hotels are 100% non-smoking.

REDEMPTION '15

20 – 22 February 2015

Britannia Hotel, Coventry, UK

Multimedia Science Fiction Convention

www.smof.com/redemption

A convention run by fans for fans

(all profits to charity)

Volunteer and Sign-Up Forms

Volunteer and sign-up forms are now available on our website (Contact Us section) for the following convention areas:

- **Art Show**
- **Dealers' Room**
- **Operations Volunteers**
- **Programme Volunteers**

These can be filled out on-line, or downloaded in PDF form to print, fill out, and post to us.

If you have any difficulty accessing these forms, please email us at:

enquiries@satellite4.org.uk

Convention T-Shirts

Con t-shirts are available for sale on our website (or by asking in person) at £16 for sizes Small to XXXL (suitable for almost all fen), and £12 for Tiny (suitable for babies and soft toys). They can be collected in person, or posted anywhere in the UK for an additional £4 per t-shirt.

T-shirts are a single-sided print on black, with the main convention logo and details on the front, and a sleeve patch featuring our Mission Logo, the comet and stars.

Programme

The success of an Eastercon depends hugely on the quality of its programme, and the quality of the programme depends on you – the membership – putting forward interesting and exciting ideas for programme items. Are you an expert on the Golden Age of Science Fiction, or the history of spaceflight, and willing to offer a talk on your specialist subject? Do you have a great idea for a panel discussion? Are you a burgeoning quizmaster? If so, please complete the programme volunteer form on the website.

Please also remember to start work on your convention costumes. As mentioned in PR1, Satellite 4 will feature 'The Ambassador's Ball'. You are invited to attend dressed as dignitaries and delegations from all races, cultures, planets and universes (real or fictional). Costumers will have the chance to be announced on arrival and to have their work judged by an expert panel. Short 'dramatic presentations' can be accommodated, by prior arrangement. We will also be having Hall Costume Day on Saturday. Finally, 2014 is the 40th anniversary of the movie 'Young Frankenstein' (doesn't time fly!). So we've decide that the theme for the Satellite 4 disco will be 'The Modern Prometheus'. We hope you'll get your brains working (including any A B Normal brains of course) on some really inventive costumes. Feel free to hark back to the original Mary Shelley novel, adapt something from the movie, or delve into the modern world of cloning and stem cell research. Imagination is your only limit!

Note that, throughout the convention, a strict weapons policy will be enforced. Side-arms must be peace-bonded at all times. Larger weapons may be displayed at certain times e.g. during formal presentation at the Ball, at the discretion of the Head of Operations (please e-mail us at info@satellite4.org.uk if you have any questions).

Converting from Supporting

Last issue we introduced you to the ***My Membership*** page on our website, where you can get a special code to edit your membership details, and we're happy to see that some of you have made use of the facility.

We've now added a new feature, that lets Supporting members request and pay for their conversion to Attending. Once you've finished editing your membership, you'll be taken to the Join page, where you can arrange payment for your upgrade. Hopefully this feature will see some use soon!

To Creche or Not to Creche

The committee are determined to make the Satellite 4 experience the best it can be for all attendees. However, organising a creche involves significant expenditure for the convention, and we need to assess whether it is financially and logistically feasible.

To this end, we ask all members who will be bringing children (aged under 12) to the convention to email us at creche@satellite4.org.uk, stating whether or not you would make use of such a facility if it were available, your children's ages, roughly how much you might use it (approximate hours per day), and how much you would be willing to contribute towards its running costs.

New Members since PR1

This is a list of all members who have joined since PR1 was compiled, on 18/10/2012. For a full list of members please see our website.

358	A	Andy Nimmo
379	N	Bear, Jofli A
367	A	Berry, Tony
386	A	Carnall, Jane
364	A	Carrie
361	A	Croad, Margaret
369	G	Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell
373	A	Dawe, Martyn
383	A	Dr Deb
362	A	Harrow, Peter
376	A	Jackson, Alan
382	A	Jackson, Judith
377	A	Jackson, June
372	A	Johnston, Al
374	A	Killick, Jane
375	A	Lexin
380	A	Martin
381	A	Melica
363	A	Mowatt, Jim
388	A	Parsons, Brian
387	A	Pearson, Marie
384	A	Rogers, Tony
385	A	Smith, Robert (Bhob)
378	A	Stevie Carroll
360	A	Thomas, David
368	A	Thomas, Jo
366	A	Wilkinson, Bridget
365	A	Wilkinson, Peter

Key

A	Adult Attending
C	Child
G	Guest
I	Infant
J	Junior
L	Guest Emeritus
N	Apocrypha
S	Supporting

This list is accurate as of 10/03/2013. If you chose not to have your name appear on the website, it will not appear here, as we will publish this PR online.

14th – 18th August 2014 | ExCeL, London

loncon3.org @loncon3

LONCON 3

The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention

Guests of Honour

Iain M. Banks John Clute
Malcolm Edwards Chris Foss
Jeanne Gomoll Robin Hobb
Bryan Talbot

26+ £95 16-25 £65 6-15 £30 0-5 £2

Family £230 Supporting £25

Discounts for Friends & Presupporters

Valid until Easter 2013. 1 family = 2 adults & 2+ children.

World Science Fiction Convention is a service mark of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

Background image credit: Jeff Schmaltz, MODIS Land Rapid Response Team, NASA GSFC.